

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      GEORGE 01220 091329Z  
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4769

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1220

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, GY  
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION COMMENTS ON NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT

REF: GEORGETOWN 1015

SUMMARY: IN THE PRESS OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) AND LEFTIST WORKING PEOPLE'S VANGUARD PARTY (WPVP) HAVE DESCRIBED NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE (NWC) VISIT AS EVIDENCE OF REVERSAL IN US-GOG RELATIONS, IMPLICATIONS OF WHICH SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED. PPP CRITICIZED EXISTING AND POSSIBLE NEW MILITARY LINKS BETWEEN US AND GUYANA AS A THREAT TO SOVEREIGNTY. THIS LINE OF CRITICISM, WHICH ALLEGES THAT IF GUYANA DRAWS TOO CLOSE TO US IT WILL BECOME NEO-COLONIAL STATE, WILL BE CONSTANT SENSITIVE INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTOR AS GOG MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US. TO DATE GOG HAS NOT SEEMED UNDULY WORRIED ABOUT THE CRITICISM.

1. NOTING THAT NWC TEAM COMPOSED OF FOUR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND ONE USAID REPRESENTATIVE HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH GUYANESE MILITARY LEADERS, PPP MIRROR EDITORIAL OF MAY 18 ASKED IF GOG WAS AGAIN SEEKING MILITARY AID FROM US. EDITORIAL POINTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF GOG PROPAGANDA DURING PAST  
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TWO YEARS ABOUT DESTABILIZATION BY US THROUGH BORDER NATION, NWC VISIT WAS INDICATION OF SUDDEN REVERSAL IN US-GOG RELATIONS AND PORTENDED MORE THAN WAS APPARENT. THE EDITORIAL CHARGED THAT AS RESULT OF NWC VISIT, US HAD ESTABLISHED NEW LINKS WITH GUYANA'S DEFENSE FORCES, AND EXISTING TIMEHRI BASE AGREEMENT WITH US WAS DETRIMENTAL TO GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE. MIRROR CALLED ON

GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN IMPLICATIONS OF MYSTERIOUS NWC VISIT.

2. AN ITEM IN WPVP NEWSHEET OF MAY 22 REITERATED PPP ALLEGATION THAT NWC VISIT INDICATED PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM WAS REVERSING PREVIOUS POLICY AND MOVING BACK TOWARDS US. THE NEWSHEET DESCRIBED AS NONSENSE A BRIEF CHRONICLE ARTICLE OF MAY 14 LABELLING NWC VISIT ROUTINE. ACCORDING TO WPVP, VISIT HAD STEMMED FROM FONMIN WILLS REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DURING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND TEAM MAY HAVE COME TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF CHINESE, CUBAN AND SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL HERE PRIOR TO DECISION ON AID. BECAUSE PM BURNHAM NEEDED ASSISTANCE, HE BOWED TO US DEMAND FOR VISIT. CONCLUSION OF THIS ANALYSIS WAS QUOTE TO HOLD HIS POSITION BURNHAM THEREFORE MUST PIROUETTE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE US UNQUOTE. WHAT, HOWEVER, WOULD THE GOG BE REQUIRED TO DO TO GAIN APPROBATION OF US?

3. COMMENT:. THIS LINE OF CRITICISM BY LEFTIST OPPOSITION, WHICH ACCUSES BURNHAM OF SACRIFICING HIS SOCIALIST AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST PRINCIPLES FOR US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WILL BE FACTOR IN PARTY POLITICS ESPECIALLY AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM. AS GOG-US RELATIONS IMPROVE, BURNHAM PROBABLY WILL FEEL CONSTRAINED TO PERIODICALLY SHOW THAT HIS COMMITMENT TO SOCIALISM AND INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION HAVE NOT BEEN COMPROMISED. THE ATTACKS ON BURNHAM

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FOR ALLEGED COMPLICITY WITH US IN PAST--WHICH APPEARED AT TIME OF REVELATIONS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO PROMINENT NATIONAL LEADERS--WILL RESURFACE. TO DATE, GOG LEADERS HAVE NOT APPEARED WORRIED BY THE OPPOSITION'S CRITICISM OF THE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US.

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